



CALIFORNIA GARDEN

IN THIS NUMBER

COFFEE GROWING IN VERAPAZ
FLOWER SHOW AWARDS
LATH HOUSE MATTERS

SEPTEMBER, 1927

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No. 3

Rare Floral Beauties Seen At Exhibition

(San Diego Union, Sept. 11th)

A riot of color against background of occasional soft green bowers of leafy plants, and here and there a nook redolent with flower perfumes and the cool, moist earth odors of a shaded garden, are some of the impressions that are made upon visitors at the fall flower show of the San Diego Floral Association, which opened yesterday afternoon in Balboa Park.

There are brilliant arrays of individual blossoms, the finest specimens from family gardens. And there are specially arranged baskets raised by other amateurs. The professional floriculturists of the city and county have arranged beautiful mass exhibits of their prize products without placing them in competition with the amateur-grown flowers.

Brilliance Everywhere

As is always the case with the fall flowers, brilliant coloring predominates, though there are many varieties with softly-tinted blossoms of variegated hues. Almost any shade of any color can be found somewhere in the show, though the great masses of the flowers give an impression of flaming brilliance in shades of red, gold and orange.

The great numbers of flowers, of course, were the brilliant dahlias, gladioluses and zinnias, which ranged through all the tints of the rainbow and from an inch in diameter to from 10 to 14 inches in diameter for the biggest dahlias. It is these gorgeous blooms that are given the greatest amount of space and attention and the feature of the show is the large number of new varieties and variegations that had been developed on the older and smaller varieties.

One corner of the display rooms is developed by the naval training station, which has created an old garden wall and gate backing it with shrubbery and bamboo leaves, and displaying the flowers about the gate in simulation of natural growth. An opposite corner is similarly developed by the city park department with some beautiful specimens of the various flowers grown in Balboa Park, but with the emphasis on the natural outdoor treatment with shrubs, vines and ferns. Other group displays make attractive nooks out of odd corners and alcoves.

Begonias Attractive

Several exhibitors are showing what can be done with the native flowers and shrubs to be found growing wild in the county. The dainty mimulus or monkey-plant, is in evidence as one of the most successfully cultivated wild flowers.

There are several elaborate and interesting begonia exhibits, some specializing in odd and exotic leaf forms, and others in the blossom variegations. There are begonias in pots, begonias in long boxes, begonias in hanging baskets, common varieties and rare ones, exotic colors and color combinations, and a wide variety of forms.

The commercial exhibit by Alfred D. Robinson is one of the most interesting of these. It is housed in a demonstration portable lath house as an indication of the amount of protection needed for the growing of begonias in San Diego, where they thrive if given the sketchiest kind of care. In this exhibit are the rarest of the flowering varieties, some of them said to be specimens as fine as can be found anywhere in the world. They bear the tongue-twisting names of "Tydea," "Tovernia Fournieri," "Narvissiflora," "Achimines," and other names which do not begin to tell the story of their delicate beauty and their delicate beauty and their ravishing coloration.

Flowers of Perfume

A white gardenia or cape jasmine just in back of the Robinson exhibit fills the air with its heavy sweetness. The perfume flowers, however, are in the minority, and the pleasant odors that pervade the show space are the indeterminate but comfortable earthy smells that fill the corner of a moist garden.

Two of the finest commercial exhibits are those set up by W. H. Oliver of Claremont, and Thomas F. McLoughlin of Encinitas. The latter has a large number of giant dahlias that he has developed and named himself, including the Charles A. Lindbergh, a lovely blossom in golden pink shades.

Judges who officiated at the flower show are Frank Shearer, superintendent of city parks; James McGilvray, conservatory superintendent, Lincoln Park, Los Angeles; Lowell Swisher, Jr., amateur authority on dahlias.

The judges started inspecting and grading the exhibits as soon as they were in place yesterday noon, while the flowers were in the best possible shape. The show will be open all today for those who want to see what San Diego county can do in the raising of flowers.

Awards Announced

The awards made by the judges are as follows:

Trophies

Best collection of dahlias, Mrs. W. H.

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Hutchings.

Best collection of zinnias, Mrs. F. S. Collender.

Zinnia sweepstakes, Mrs. F. S. Collender.

Aster sweepstakes, Mrs. E. S. Litchfield.

Best collection of zinnias, Mrs. F. S. Collender.

Best collection of annuals, Naval Air Station.

Best arranged basket of flowers, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Bliss.

Best arranged bowl or dish of flowers, Mrs. E. J. Daly.

Best garden display from 50-foot lot, H. S. Kahn.

Best garden display from lot over 50 feet, Mrs. Harry Kahn.

One best dahlia at show, W. H. Oliver.

Most artistic basket of dahlias, Mrs. Fannie H. Turner.

Best six blooms dahlias, dahlia cup, Thomas McLoughlin.

Best six blooms California productions, W. H. Oliver.

Best collection rex begonias, Mrs. E. L. Dornberger.

Best general exhibit of begonias, Mrs. John Burnham.

Best collection of ferns, Mrs. E. L. Dornberger.

Best dining table, Mrs. John Clark.

General display arranged for effect, Thomas F. McLoughlin.

Best collection of decorative plants, Crewes Peters.

Best arranged basket of flowers by professionals, Frank M. Warner Co.

Best civic and service display, U. S. Naval Training Station.

Section A.—Dahlias—Amateurs

Class 1—Best collection of dahlias, one of each variety. Prize Competitive cup to be won for three years. First, Mrs. W. H. Hutchings; second, Mrs. F. S. Collender.

2—Best six blooms cactus, one or more varieties. First, Mrs. W. H. Hutchings; second, Alfred Nippell.

3—Best six blooms hybrid cactus, one or more varieties. First, Mrs. Hans Peters; second, Mrs. F. S. Collender.

4—Best six blooms collarettes, one or more varieties.

5—Best six blooms decorative, one or more varieties. First, Alfred Nippell.

6—Best six blooms fancy or variegated, one or more varieties. First, Mrs. I. Reeves.

7—Best six blooms peony, one or more varieties. First, Mrs. M. W. Smith; second, Mrs. Mary A. Alexander.

8—Best six blooms pompom, one or more varieties. First, H. Lodge; second, Mrs. Mary A. Alexander.

9—Best six blooms show, one or more varieties. First, Tommy Getz; second, Tommy Getz.

10—Best six blooms semi-double or duplex, one or more varieties.

11—Best six blooms single, one or more varieties.

12—Best collection cactus dahlia, one bloom each variety.

13—Best collection hybrid cactus, one bloom each variety.

14—Best collection decorative, one bloom each variety.

15—Best collection peony, one bloom each variety.

16—Best collection pompoms, two blooms each variety.

17—Best collection show, one bloom each variety.

18—Best collection semi-double or duplex, three blooms each variety.

19—Best collection single, three blooms each variety.

20—Best keeping dahlia in amateur section. Will be judged last day of show.

20½—Special champagne colored decorative dahlia.

20a—Special basket dahlias. First, Memorial Junior High; second, Memorial Junior High.

20b—Special vase dahlias. First, Memorial Junior High; second, Memorial Junior High.

Second B.—General—Amateurs

21—Best collection zinnias. First, Mrs. F. S. Collender; second, Naval Air Station; third, Bonselene Kindler.

22—Best six blooms zinnias, red or red shades. First, Bonselene Kindler; second, Mrs. I. Reeves; third, Greenwood Cemetery Association.

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23—Best six blooms zinnias, white or white shades. First, Mrs. F. S. Collender; second Mrs. Frank Mott.

24—Best six blooms zinnias, pink or pink shades. First, Mrs. Laurence Carr; second Greenwood Cemetery Association; third Mrs. F. S. Collender.

25—Best six blooms zinnias, orange or orange shades. First, E. Estella Mills; second, Mrs. F. S. Collender; third, Mrs. D. F. Harness.

26—Best six blooms zinnias, yellow or yellow shades. First, Bonselene Kindler; second, Frank Strausser.

27—Best six blooms zinnias, lavender or lavender shades. First Frank Strausser; second, Mrs. I. Reeves.

28—Best six blooms, any other color. First, E. Estella Mills; second, Mrs. F. S. Collender.

29—Best six blooms zinnias, picotee type.

30—Best 25 blooms mixed zinnias, small Mexican.

31—Best collection Lilliput zinnias. First, Naval Air Station; second Mrs. F. F. Harness.

31½—Special quilled zinnias. First, Bonselene Kindler.

32—Zinnia sweepstakes. Mrs. F. S. Collender.

33—Best arranged vase or bowl of zinnias, greenery allowed. First, Mrs. Frank Mott; second, Mrs. R. Morrison.

34—Best arranged basket of zinnias, greenery allowed. First, Mrs. C. C. Benton; second, Mrs. Frank Mott.

35—Best collection asters, American Beauty type. First, Frank Strausser; second, Mrs. Frank Myers.

36—Best collection asters, Crego type.

37—Best collection asters, Victoria type. Mrs. E. S. Litchfield.

38½—Sunshine asters. First, Mrs. L. Carr.

39—Best vase of asters, any variety, 25 blooms. First, Mrs. E. S. Litchfield.

40—Aster sweepstakes. Mrs. E. S. Litchfield.

40a—Giant asters. Special, Mrs. Frank Myers.

40b—Quilled asters. Special, Mrs. Frank Myers.

41—Best collection of annuals. First, Naval Air Station.

42—Best arranged basket of flowers. First, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Bliss; second Mrs. E. C. Lovejoy.

43—Best arranged vase, bowl or dish of flowers. First, Mrs. E. J. Daly; second, Mrs. T. F. Scripps.

44—Best Japanese arrangement of flowers in bowl or basket. First, Mrs. E. J. Daly; second, Mrs. C. F. Disbrow; special, Mrs. Frank Mott; special, Mrs. W. H. Wilson.

45—Best collection of bulbous flowers. First, Mrs. Covert; second, Mrs. R. Morrison.

46—Best display of African marigolds. First, Naval Air Station; second, Naval Air Station.

47—Best display of French marigolds. First, Naval Air Station.

48—Best collection of perennials. First, Mrs. R. Morrison.

48½—Miscellaneous or not otherwise classified. First, Mrs. W. H. Bradford.

49—Best garden display from 50-foot lot, or less. First, Mrs. D. F. Harness.

50—Best garden display from over 50-foot lot. First, H. S. Kahn.

Section C—Dahlias—Open Competition

51—Best established three-year-old seedling. First, Mrs. Hans Peters; second, Tommy Getz.

52—Best collection unregistered seedlings. First, Charles Otheck; second, Thomas F. McLoughlin.

53—Best 1926 seedling. First H. Lodge; second, Thomas F. McLoughlin.

54—Best 1927 seedling. First, A. Adderley.

55—One best bloom exhibited at show, stem and foliage considered. First, W. H. Oliver.

56—Smallest perfect pompom dahlia. First, Floral Terrace Nursery.

57—Most artistic basket of dahlias in show, use of other foliage permitted. Amateurs only. First, Mrs. Fannie H. Turner; second, Mrs. F. M. White.

57½—A de Lavoni dahlia. Mrs. L. G. Nesmith.

58—Most artistic basket of pompoms in show, use of other foliage permitted. First, Mrs. Hans Peters; second, Thomas F. McLoughlin.

59—Dahlia cup for best six blooms, one bloom each of six classes, one bloom only in each vase. First, Thomas F. McLoughlin; second, Fairview Dahlia Gardens.

60—Best six blooms, six varieties, California productions. (Gold Medal Dahlia Society of California.) First, W. H. Oliver; second, Thomas F. McLoughlin.

Section D—General—Amateurs

61—Best exhibit of potted fibrous begonias.

62—Best one specimen fibrous begonia. First, Mrs. Charles Williams.

63—Best display of tuberous begonias. First, Mrs. E. L. Dornberger.

64—Best one specimen tuberous begonia.

65—Best collection rex begonias grown in pots or other receptacle. First, Mrs. E. L. Dornberger.

66—Best one specimen rex begonia grown in pot or other receptacle. First, Mrs. Hans Peters; second, G. E. Boston.

67—Best specimen rex begonia, San Diego seedling, open competition. First, Mrs. Hans Peters.

68—Best general exhibit of begonias grown in pots or boxes; open competition. First, Mrs. John Burnham.

69—Best arranged basket, vase or bowl of ferns and begonias. First, Mrs. Charles Williams.

70—Best specimen maidenhair fern. First, Frank Strausser; second, Mrs. Ellis B. Miller.

71—Best specimen fern other than maidenhair. First, Mrs. Ellis B. Miller.

72—Best collection of ferns. First, Mrs. E. L. Dornberger.

73—Best collection of gladiolus; open competition. First, Mrs. G. H. Calvin.

74—Best fern hanging basket. First, Mrs. Ellis B. Miller.

75—Best hanging basket other than fern. First, Mrs. Charles Williams.

76—Best foliage plant for interior decoration. First, Frank Strausser; second G. E. Boston.

76½—Best collection for interior decoration. First, Harry Martin.

77—Best flowering vine (must be in flower) First, Frank Strausser; second, Mr. and Mrs. E. Thelen; third, Mr. and Mrs. E. Thelen.

78—Best collection of cut sprays, flowering trees or shrubs. First, Mr. and Mrs. E. Thelen; second, Naval Air Station; special, Mrs. C. W. Darling.

79—Best collection berried shrubs (cut sprays or in pots). First, Naval Air Station.

79½—Best collection of grasses. First, Naval Air Station; second, Mrs. M. A. Greer.

80—Best new flower or plant not before exhibited. First, Frank Strausser; second, Mrs. Wilson; third, Mrs. H. W. Sinclair.

81—Best dining table decoration, flowers and foliage. First, Mrs. John G. Clark; second, Mrs. Richard Kale; third, Miss Grace Deisher; special, Mrs. Abbie F. Merrill.

81½—Homecraft garden specialties. Special, Mr. Barnes.

81¾—Miscellaneous. Special, Mrs. Hemala.

Section E—Dahlias—Professionals

82—Best general display arranged for effect, potted plants and foliage allowed for embellishment. First, Thomas F. McLoughlin; second, Fairview Dahlia Gardens.

83—Best 12 blooms, any variety. First, Frank M. Warner Co.

84—Best 12 blooms cactus, one or more varieties. First, Fairview Dahlia Gardens.

85—Best 12 blooms hybrid cactus, one or more varieties. First, Thomas F. McLoughlin.

86—Best 12 blooms collarettes, one or more varieties.

87—Best 12 blooms decorative, one or more varieties. First, Thomas F. McLoughlin.

88—Best 12 blooms of fancy variegated, one or more varieties.

89—Best 12 blooms peony, one or more varieties.

90—Best 12 blooms pompom, one or more varieties.

91—Best 12 blooms show, one or more varieties.

92—Best 12 blooms semi-double or duplex, one or more varieties.

93—Best collection cactus dahlias, one bloom each variety.

94—Best collection hybrid cactus, one bloom each variety. First, W. H. Oliver.

95—Best collection collarettes, one bloom each variety. First, W. H. Oliver.

96—Best collection decorative, one bloom each variety.

97—Best collection fancy or variegated, one bloom each variety.

98—Best collection peony flowered, one bloom each variety.

99—Best collection pompoms, three blooms each variety. First, Fairview Dahlia Gardens.

100—Best collection show, one bloom each.

101—Best collection semi-double or duplex, three blooms each.

102—Best collection single dahlias, three blooms each variety.

103—Best collection of California dahlias, 12 blooms, 12 varieties.

Section F—General—Professionals

104—Best collection of decorative plants and flowers, arranged for effect, in space 100 square feet.

105—Best collection of 25 shrubs for garden use.

106—Best collection of vines. First, Kate O. Sessions.

107—Best collection of potted or boxed ferns.

108—Best specimen sword fern.

109—Best specimen fern other than sword fern. First, Crewes Peters.

110—Best decorative plant for house.

111—Best new plant or flower not exhibited before. First, Kate O. Sessions; special award, the Johnson Nursery.

112—Best collection of potted plants.

113—Best vase, basket or other arrangement of zinnias. First, Monarch Bulb and Nursery Co.; second, Frank M. Warner Co.

113a—Best arranged basket African marigolds. Special award, Monarch Bulb and Nursery Co.

114—Best collection zinnias. First, Frank M. Warner Co.

114a—Special class zinnias, large zinnia. Special, Monarch Bulb and Nursery Co.

114b—Special class zinnias, smallest zinnia. Special, Monarch Bulb and Nursery Co.

115—Best collection of asters.

116—Best arranged basket of flowers. First, Frank M. Warner Co.; second, Sunset Floral Shop.

117—Best civic or service display of plants and flowers, quality and arrangement to be main points. First, U. S. Naval Training Station.

Section G—Dahlias—Novice Class

118—Not more than 12 dahlias, excluding pompoms. First, W. M. Archibald, Jr.; second, Gerald Baldwin, Jr.

119—Best decorative dahlia. First, G. E. Allen; second, Mrs. C. Marsh; third Alfred Nippell.

120—Best peony dahlia. First, Mrs. John

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The Sept. and October Gardens

THE STATELY IRIS IS AN ORNAMENT TO ANY GARDEN

By Frances Duncan.

(In Farm and Orchard Magazine, L. A. Times)

One of the most poetic of flowers is the iris. So insistent in their bid for attention are the brilliant gladioli, so strikingly effective are the great dahlias, that the iris, in California, has not yet come to a full share of popularity that is its due. Yet it is a flower of stately beauty, wonderfully rich in color and almost as easily grown and permanent when once established as that prince of di-hards, the red geranium.

With all its ease of cultivation, the iris is an aristocrat. Beside its ancient lineage, gladiolus and dahlia and chrysanthemum are mere infants. It is almost as old as the Egyptian lotus. Also, it is linked with history. As definitely as the rose is a part of English history, does the fleur-de-lis belong to France. The "lilies" which Jeanne d'Arc embroidered on her banner were fleurs-de-lis or irises. Probably Eve grew them in Eden, for today Asia Minor is peculiarly rich in irises and very likely they flourished along the banks of the river that flowed "eastward from Eden."

To the amateur gardener, one of the most potent attractions of the iris is its extreme ease of culture. Not all irises will grow in all soils, but some may be found to grow in any given soil, be it dry or gravelly, or moist and boggy. *Iris pseudocornis* will even grow in an aquatic garden. The most tolerant of irises in the matter of soil are they of the pogoniris group, the "bearded irises," which at one time were generally known as German iris. In almost any soil and situation these irises will thrive—open sunshine, or partial shade, gravelly and sandy loam, or beside the water garden. I have seen them growing happily under eucalyptus trees. Nor do they, under such conditions, thrive and bloom for a single season only. Once planted, they go on like Tennyson's brook. I have seen them growing, spreading under trees and a rather uncared-for shrubbery, with but a very occasional chance at enjoying the irrigation which blest the rest of the place. Yet they were blossoming, year after year, though given no attention whatever.

Naturally, one doesn't recommend this method of gardening, but the iris's ability to bloom and flourish under conditions which would ruin many another plant and drive

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

September is one of the great planting months for bulbs, flowers, seeds and plants and, presuming that you have fertilized and thoroughly prepared your ground, there are a great many things that can go in now.

Most bulbs, like many seeds, are fond of a medium light soil and will do well in the full sun or semi-shade, Calla Lilies, freesias, and a few others preferring more shade.

There is a tendency at the present time to start the planting of many bulbs too early in the season, unnecessarily subjecting them to the mid-summer heat, when they would do much better if planted during the latter part of August and through September and October. I am thinking more particularly of ranunculus, anemones and most of the narcissi, which are really better out of the ground until after the middle of September.

Do not delay in planting Calla Lilies, freesias, both colored and white, iris, amaryllis and watsonias. The freesias and callas should have some shade.

The smaller bulbs, like freesias, ranunculus, anemones and possibly the Spanish Iris, should be planted from four to six inches apart and from two and a half to three inches deep. Don't forget to have ground well worked and moist, not wet, and be sure and soak your anemone and ranunculus bulbs for a few hours before planting. There are many pretty colors among the freesias and they are all fragrant.

The *triton* crocata, a type of salmon or flame colored freesia makes a particularly attractive cut flower.

Another bulb that will soon be in season is the Yellow Calla, a most attractive flower for either outdoor bedding or pot culture. The blossom is large and deep golden yellow and the leaves are spotted white.

Plant some baby gladioli at this time; they are a dwarf type, coming mostly in shades of pink, white and scarlet. They make an excellent cut flower throwing many spikes from a single bulb and come into bloom when other flowers are scarce.

Do not forget the early blooming sweet peas. Remember that with proper care you can have a wonderful show of flowers for the garden and table from Xmas to mid-summer. There is a wide range of choice in colors, the three outstanding novelties being Sweet Lavender, Pink Cherokee, pink suffused salmon

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The California Garden

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EDITORIAL

Fair Time. As this magazine goes to press a large number of California counties are holding their annual Fairs. The great State Fair usually heads the procession, opening early in September, followed in close succession by county after county, many of them necessarily overlapping or duplicating dates. In Southern California, however, care is taken to see that the Fairs are run concurrently; Orange County comes first, followed by Ventura, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Riverside.

The Editor had charge of the San Diego County exhibit at the State Fair and was in attendance there for several days. A wonderful collection of products of the soil were shown, as well as the finest animals produced in the State, these also being products of the soil, to be exact. It is doubtful if any other State in the Union can duplicate the quality and variety of exhibits shown at our State and County Fairs.

The San Diego County exhibit was made up of a rather remarkable variety of products, ranging from tropical and sub-tropical fruits, particularly bananas, mangoes, papayas, cherimoyas, sapotes, avocados, passion fruits, dates, etc., to all the fruits and vegetables of the temperate zone, the former including apples, pears, plums, peaches, grapes, and the like. No other county was able to make such a comprehensive display of horticultural products, and in consequence we

were awarded a special prize of \$100.00 and a silver cup.

San Diego Dates. Our date exhibit was of exceptional interest in that it emphasized the possibility of growing dates near the coast. The dates shown were grown by Mr. J. P. R. Hall of El Cajon and were the result of 25 years of patient experimentation. For one to realize what an achievement it is to mature dates near the coast at a relatively low temperature and high humidity, it must be remembered that all the dates heretofore grown in the United States have been produced in regions of intense heat and low humidity under conditions such as prevail in parts of Arizona and in Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and Death Valley, California. Also our San Diego dates were ripened within 4 months from the time of pollination, at least 6 weeks to 2 months less time than is necessary for most other dates grown in warmer sections to mature.

It may not be too much to hope that possibly in time to come all of us who wish to grow our own dates may do so, even though we do not live in the hot interior valleys.

Coffee. The U. S. Acclimatization Garden at Torrey Pines is experimenting with coffee growing, endeavoring to find some strain that will withstand the comparative rigor of our northern climate. Young plants of five varieties were shown in our exhibit at Sacramento, furnished by the Acclimatization Garden. In this issue of the California Garden will be found the opening chapter of an article on coffee growing, written by Mr. Harry Johnson of Hynes, who is a regular and valued contributor to this magazine. Mr. Johnson specializes in water plants and all who are familiar with his writings and who saw his exhibit of water lilies and aquatics at our recent Flower Show will agree that he knows how to produce beautiful lilies as well as to write entertainingly on many subjects.

Two or three of the coffee varieties mentioned by Mr. Johnson in the article referred to, notably *Coffea arabica* and *Coffea bourbon*, are now being tried out at the Torrey Pines Station.

Restaurants. The 600-mile trip from San Diego to the Sacramento Fair, and as much more in reverse, was made without special incident, although every mile of the coast road was full of beauty and interest. A comparatively new road into Sacramento, if one has not taken it previously, is well worth investigating. It is via San Jose, Haywards, Walnut Creek, over the magnificent Antioch toll bridge and up the Sacramento river right on the dikes overlooking the river for mile after mile. There is more asparagus grown in this delta section than anywhere else in the United States.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

Back again to San Diego, down the great San Joaquin Valley, which brings one to the subject of restaurants. "We can live without music," etc., but we cannot do without cooks. There are probably more Greeks in the San Joaquin Valley than in Athens itself, and all of them either have fruit stores or run restaurants. When you see a restaurant labelled "Liberty Cafe," or "American Restaurant," or "Nick's Place," then, from the writer's point of view, it is time to move on.

AUGUST MEETING

The San Diego Floral Association held its regular meeting in the Floral Building, in Balboa Park, Tuesday, August 16th, at the usual hour of 7:30 p. m.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president, who, during her opening remarks, called attention to the Flower Show to be held September 10 and 11, in Balboa Park. She then introduced Dr. A. R. Sprague, Horticulturist of Rancho Santa Fe, who had kindly consented to address the meeting.

Dr. Sprague talked on the subject of Glad-ioli, and exhibited a large assortment of seedling specimens from his stock, which he used in illustrating his talk. Among the specimens, was the famous Orchid Dahlia, of which he is the originator. He advised using bulbs and seed only from the most promising plants—being guided by shape of flower and strength of plant; and unless the taste of the grower is otherwise, his advice was to try for production of flowers of solid color; although no one can tell what color the seed will produce.

Dr. Sprague's talk was one of the most interesting of the many very interesting addresses to which the association has been privileged to listen; and we extend our thanks to him for the favor of his presence with us and the trouble taken to be with us and for his entertaining and interesting talk.

Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, September 20th, in the Floral Building in Balboa Park. These meetings deserve a better attendance than we sometimes have.

A. S. HILL.

Complete Files of the California Garden may be obtained from Secretary A. D. Hill, Balboa Park, at reasonable prices.

Wanted—July, 1927, numbers of the California Garden. Several copies are needed very badly. If you can spare one send it to: Mrs. M. A. Greer, 2972 First St.

FIRST ANNUAL ROSE SHOW

Plans for the First Annual Fall Rose Show of the San Diego Rose Society were outlined at a committee meeting held at the Churchill Hotel Monday, September the twelfth. While a definite date will not be set until the quarterly meeting of the Rose Society, October 4th, it was the consensus of opinion that the optimum time for the show would be approximately the middle of November, depending somewhat upon the vagaries of the weather. It is believed by many of the rose lovers that this show will fill a long-felt need, as many of our roses are at their best in the fall. San Diego County is fortunate in having a tremendous climatic advantage over the greater portion of the United States, and a late fall rose show should therefore not only prove a creditable exhibition but should appeal to flower lovers as something unique as well.

The premium list for this show will be made up in the near future and suitable trophies will be awarded. All who have roses, professionals or amateurs, are cordially invited to exhibit them in their respective classes.

It is strongly urged that all members of the San Diego Rose Society attend the quarterly dinner of the society Tuesday, October 4th, at the Cabrillo Cafe. At this time a definite date will be set and other important matters relative to the show discussed.

S. B. OSBORN,

Chairman of Show Committee.

THE GARDEN

(Continued from page 5)

on cream ground, and Orange King, orange color.

Pansies also, while very different from sweet peas, will show their friendly little faces for even a longer period than sweet peas and what wonderfully rich, velvety colors they show! If you plant seed ask for the Giant Mastadon or Miracle Mixed or, later in the season you can get strong balled plants that will bloom two or three weeks after putting them in.

There are a number of plants you can set out now as well as the seed that will give you fall, winter and spring blooms. Stocks, Schizanthus, Calendula, Pentstemon, Canterbury Bells, Delphinium, Snapdragons, Gail-lardia and Hollyhocks.

The following annuals can be sown now: Cinerarias, Calendula, Calliopsis, Cosmos, Candytuft, Centaurea, California Poppy, Gypsophila, Larkspur, Lupins, Lobelia, Mignon-ette and Phlox Drummondii.

Perennials: Anchusa Italica, Aquilegias or Columbine, Bellis Perennis or English Daisy, Canterbury Bells (biennial), Coreopsis, Fox Glove, Forget-Me-Not, Geum, red and yellow, Scabiosa, Caucasica and others.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

THE DIGGERS

While walking up Broadway I saw a bonnie boy held in leash by his mother. As he toddled along they came where ditchers had left a pile of earth. Instantly the little fellow dropped on all fours, crept to the top of the mound and began to dig. It took good natured coaxing and his mother's loving arm to draw him away from his primal urge. Yes, I said, "primal urge", for man is a digging creature. Fundamentalists and modernists will agree that the instinctive pastimes of children, and the proverbs and common sayings in language give us a long line on man's origin and history. When a creeping babe is put on the ground, he does not seek the nearest tree and climb, he digs. The softer the soil the better it suits him. Before he can talk he will carry water to soften the soil, and cares not if his tool is mother's best spoon or father's pet pocket knife, just so he can dig. That is why we have sand-piles for babies. Breathes there a boy with soul so dead, who to himself has never said: "I'll dig a cave to hide my head"? If crime is caused by thwarted instincts, it is no wonder cities have youthful criminals where solid walls and streets prevent cave digging. We say, "Only a ditch digger—", not because the occupation is disgraceful but because digging is such an instinct we think it needs no intelligence. Like the garden helper who said, "I dunno the difference between a sturion and a glory vine, but I can dig." And dig he did, to the consternation of several small plants that were trying their first long roots. Yet the trees, where the digging was done, thrived wondrously that season. The first, last and middle word of advice for a successful garden is "Dig". We find it takes intelligence to successfully dig our tiny irrigation trenches for the flowers. Intelligent digging has lengthened man's span of life. The sewers and aqueducts of a city are its most important necessities. A weary man says, "I've been working like a dog". Did you ever see a dog work harder than at digging? Especially if after the other dog's bone. The first man that climbed a tree was after something, or something was after him, for we still hear, "I was scared enough to climb a tree". The first boy that climbed did it to show he was smart as a monkey. First it was, "Monkey Shinning", then it became "Monkey Shines". So easy, you see, to trace history by our language.

If man never had done any digging he'd still be living in tepees instead of twenty story pigeon cotes; scratching the earth with sticks instead of turning eighteen furrows in one trip across the field; riding in wooden wheeled carts instead of flying across oceans; relaying messages with drums instead of talking through a radio-hat around the world. When the rich buy land, for landscape gardening, they do not know it is because of the

urge to dig. A man may deny the digging urge, disdain to touch a shovel or hoe, and take his exercise by chasing the antelope over the plain in the shape of a small, white ball; yet there he will dig up the turf. He may flout and despise the spade, if he will, in spite of himself he's a digger still. Even our President has proved that part of the fun of fishing is digging bait.

The happiest diggers of all are the babies on the sand-pile, and the gray heads in their gardens.

GRAY GOOSE.

I THANK THEE, LORD

For mornings, noons and nights beneath the sky;

For gentle flowing streams that murmur by;
For smoke-blue haze on distant mountain sides;

For drowsy fields where deep content abides;
For lonely dunes where angry seas have wept;
And for the heights where no man's foot hath stept;

For mist of green among the willow trees,
Herald of Spring and all her mysteries;
For stars low-hung above the desert waste;
For canyon depths by water fingers traced;
For evening sky aflame with sunset light;
And for the velvet darkness of the night:
For these, Thy words that move in sweet accord,

I render up my grateful thanks, O Lord!

—Nita Van Housen, in *American Forests*.

GARDEN NOTES

The larkspur plants should have close attention, for, if severely hot weather is continuous, a fungus growth often attacks the plants at the crown. Such trouble may be checked by spraying thoroughly with a lime and sulphur solution. Also, spray the ground surrounding the plants. A solution of bicarbonate of soda (ordinary baking soda), mixed in the proportion of two tablespoonfuls of soda to a gallon of water, is also effective.

Stake the later perennials such as the asters. Spray chrysanthemums and the annual asters for black aphid which generally begins to appear at this time. Early spraying with any good nicotine sulphate preparation will be well worth while. Grasshoppers are destructive in many gardens, eating chrysanthemums to the stems. Give the plants a drenching with an arsenate of lead solution and the hoppers will quickly disappear.

Transplant perennials raised from seed to permanent quarters the last of the month so that their roots may be established before freezing. Sow seed of violas and pansies for early spring bloom next year to winter either in cold frame or under straw, or autumn leaves in the open. Cut back old pansies and violas to start fresh growth from the roots for fall bloom and work a little bonemeal about the roots.—(Better Homes and Gardens.)

STRAY THOUGHTS

By Peter D. Barnhart.

Propagating Frames: Easily made and indispensable to the gardener who cares to play at the game of propagating plants for his or her own garden. During the summer months, even as late as November 1st, a multitude of plants may be grown in such a contrivance without the use of artificial heat.

There are three fundamental principles which must be followed in their construction; they must be absolutely air tight. If two or more sash are used, then the cross bars must fit snugly to the sash, where they join. Canvas or strips of discarded Auto tire tubes must be tacked on the edge of the frame if a tight fit is to be made for the sash. Clear glass, when used, must be shaded; either under a lath house or, if the frame is placed beneath a tree the shade will be sufficient. Six inches of clean sand, and when I say clean, I mean just that. It must be washed to free it from all vegetable matter, and from any clay it may contain, that no fungous disease may breed while the cuttings are rooting. After every batch of cuttings are removed the washing should be repeated.

Half ripe wood of most of the shrubs grown in California will root in 30 to 60 days. Maybe the professional nurseryman can produce plants at less cost than the Amateur, but there is a lot of fun and satisfaction growing things oneself, not found in buying them already grown.

Celoglass is lighter and cheaper than pure glass, and answers quite as well, but robs one of the pleasure of seeing the babies in the frame develop.

Two, and some times four leaves, must be left on the cuttings, and the frame kept moist, by sprinkling every other day.

Baobab: A tree described by Gray Goose in last issue of The Garden, is one of those Creations of the Creator of all things, for the good of His creature Man, which challenges our efforts to grow it in this Southland. Only recently did I get seeds of it from a returned Missionary to the Dark Continent, and have three of them in the care of an expert propagator. It belongs to the malvaceae tribe, closely related to the Silk Cotton tree, one of which is growing on the Soldiers' Home grounds at Sawtelle, Cal.

It came to me under the name, Cream of Tartar Tree, and the books tell us that pulp of the fruit is quite acid, producing a refreshing beverage for the people of the warm regions where it grows.

If any reader of these lines have access to a copy of Smith's Dictionary of Economic Plants, will turn to page 37, they will read of this wonderful tree, and its Australian relative, *Adansonia Gregorii*.

In joyful anticipation I dream of the day when one of those trees will be found among

the many subjects of a Botanic Garden in which I am interested.

Beloved readers of this Journal, it is a great privilege to dwell in a land so favorable to the growth and the development of vegetation from every clime and country on the face of the earth. Do we appreciate the privilege, and are we devoutly thankful that our lot has been cast in such a pleasant place?

Pyrethrum powders. An article on the pyrethrum as a cut flower appears in this issue, but it is interesting to note that pyrethrum flowers are of increasing importance for other purposes as well. They are ground fine or made into liquid extracts for use in the control or eradication of numerous insect pests of our gardens. The powdered pyrethrum is a specific for many kinds of insects, and may be used where arsenicals cannot. This is also true of the pyrethrum extracts.

It has long been a problem to protect many food plants or fruits from the attacks of insects and at the same time avoid the use of some form of arsenic. Just recently a large number of cases of food poisoning due to arsenical sprays was discovered in Los Angeles County. The State Health Board has had to limit the amount of arsenic that may be applied per pound of edible food product and in many cases this is not sufficient to kill some of the more resistant insects. Pyrethrum powders and extracts have the advantage of being non-poisonous to human beings and yet when applied to certain insects are very effective. They kill partly by suffocation and partly by paralyzing the nerve centers. It seems to be probable that some of the liquid extracts will find a wide use in our fight against garden and fruit pests.

THE PYRETHRUM AS A CUT FLOWER

A few days since a flower was put into my hands with the request for its botanical name and general information as to its culture because it had proved useful on account of its early blooming. The flower was a Pyrethrum, obviously a seedling of *P. roseum* hybridum. Botanists, by the way, tell us that Pyrethrums are *Chrysanthemums* and that *P. roseum* is truly *C. coccineum*.

Neglect of the Pyrethrum

One is inclined to think that gardeners, florists and nurserymen have, as a whole, somewhat neglected the hybrid Pyrethrum. Anyone who has visited England and France in the latter part of May and through June will have seen how important is the Pyrethrum, both for the garden and the florist. For the London market, scores of acres are devoted to this flower and it may truly be said that the Pyrethrum, is, to the florist there of far greater importance than the

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THE WEB OF LIFE

By Harry Johnson

(Continued)

It may be mentioned now that the primary object of the flower is to set seed with all possible economy so that the material saved may be applied to the production of more seed. To achieve the beautiful results seen on every hand required between plants and insects long ages of close cooperation; the slow feeling forward and testing of new devices, the plant unable to proceed faster than the intelligence of its visitors warranted. The method chosen by plants to foil intruders was the placing of the nectar at the bottom of longer or shorter tubes narrowing the throat so that clumsy fellows could not enter. To insure pollination the form of the flower was changed so that but one road remained to the nectar, free parts were merged to form one and stamens and stigma were set along the road so that they could not be missed by visitors.

The growing together of floral parts started perhaps with the seed pods. If a flower has five petals it is quite certain that it once had five or ten separate carpels as does the primitive Buttercup. If these should unite to form a single one many advantages would accrue; material would be saved, pollen put upon the stigma would have but one path to all the waiting ovules while the placing of the stigma in relation to the other parts could be more conveniently effected. Thus with all other parts of the flower, convenience and greater utility could be brought about and at the same time material saved. Wheel-shaped flowers with all or most of their parts free are considered by botanists to be less advanced in the scale of evolution than flowers with parts grown together reduced in numbers or of irregular shape for they approach more closely to our conception of the ideal primitive flower.

Reduction in the number of parts followed this growing together and so in some cases we find but one carpel and sometimes but one seed in it. Stamens as the track to the nectar was narrowed often became reduced in numbers and increased in efficiency while beautiful contrivances arose whereby it was insured that the pollen would be placed on some particular part of a particular insect. By spacing the maturation of the stigma and anthers apart in time and putting them at maturity in the same places it became possible to guarantee cross-fertilization. The orchids have carried this type of specialization almost to its ultimate extreme. And so by slow degrees most of the beautiful floral forms that we know today came into being.

The flowering plants of the age immediately preceding the glacial era were woody, probably more or less arborescent forms for as yet the herbaceous types so dominant now

had not appeared. Herbaceous plants represent an adaptation to the harshness and inclemency of climatic conditions brought by the slowly spreading polar ice caps. As the tropical area retreated toward the equator and winters each colder than the last crept on them, plant and animal life were forced to follow. Those that survived by the rigorous life changed in many ways the better to cope with the unfavorable climate. Trees which were once clothed in verdure the year around now found it necessary to confront the chill and moisture hungry winds of winter with stark and naked branches. Insects left without food and frozen to inactivity for long months, sought safety in the dormant pupal stage or passed the bleak winter in hard cases and sheltered eggs. Animals learned to hibernate and in the waning days of summer to store their tissues with heat producing fat. Birds used their hard won powers of flight to wing their way each fall to gentler warmer climes. Active animate life could not continue during the cold months for the mean winter temperatures were too low to permit growth.

The herbaceous habit came about as a response to the need for food storage space near the growing regions. Adjacent wood cells were converted into such storage chambers, became crammed with starch ready to be carried at moments notice to the scene of activity. This need for food storage became imperative on account of the shortened summer and the tendency to occupy all the available habitats. Energy was needed to start early spring growth. The colonization of unfavorable habitats had an analogous effect. The forest floor shaded and dark during the summer or covered beneath a mantle of snow during the winter offered, while the trees were yet leafless in earliest spring, suitable growing conditions for any plants able to compress their season's activities with this limited period. The woody tissues of the truly herbaceous stem are much reduced while the storage tissues are greatly increased thus permitting the plant to accelerate its rate of growth or to ripen its seed at one season by tapping the stored energy and so complete the life cycle within the allotted span.

Herbaceous plants have obvious advantages over woody forms in many particulars. In many types they are able to shed not only their leaves at the approach of an unfavorable season, but their aerial portions as well. Maturity is more quickly reached for far less material is needed to complete their frame work than for instance to build an oak tree. Early fruitfulness implies a multiplying of generations giving greater play to variation and insuring rapid conquest of vacant or devastated areas. The annual plant trusting to the fecundity of each generation is perhaps the crowning achievement of a long line of such evolutionary effort.

The present trend seems to be toward a further specialization of herbaceous types. Some of the most progressive families today, such as the Compositae and the Gramineae are almost entirely herbaceous and they are tending to occupy all the different plant habitats while the numbers of species are legion. The groups are expanding so rapidly that the taxonomist finds it well nigh impossible to draw definite or clean cut lines between species or even the higher ordinals. The Composites are adapted to insect pollination the Grasses to wind pollination.

Many other such changes came about during the present glacial era, which have developed in waves of varying intensity, each crest and the succeeding warmer trough lasting from fifty to seventy-five thousand years.

We are at present some thirty thousand years from the last cold period and only nine thousand years ago the ice melted from the Scandinavian peninsula. Whether another ice age will succeed is a matter of the future. During this comparatively short time enormous progress has been made. It is possible that it has exceeded any like period in the world's history, though we are always prone to believe our own age is the best.

In summing up the outstanding achievements of the plant and animal world since the coal forming period we may say that animals learned to live upon the dry land, to fly in the air and to return to the seas. That with the coming of warm blooded animals a new era of advancement set in with the development of a highly sensitive nervous system culminating in man. That the insect world, active at the beginning of the period continued so and with the appearance of the flowering plants began the symbiotic relations, the fruition of which is the complex interlinking of many plants and insects. The plant kingdom, perhaps, always a step ahead of the animal kingdom as regards sweeping new innovations had ages before left the sea and advanced over the rock strewn and sterile lands, peopling them with a diversity of forms and preparing them for the animal invasion. Now seed plants were breaking new ground, meeting change and adversity with more resourcefulness, conquering new habitats, pushing into old niches and developing new branching and diversifying, adventurously prying into the future. The contacts between the two kingdoms spread in numbers till both in response to mutual needs grew more and more dependent. Born of this union were the flowering plants soon to sweep all before them, ramifying and multiplying in numbers, crowding the habitable spots till the old order weakened and spent by the effort survived but in remnants of their once conquering hosts. Thus we come to the present.

THE PYRETHRUM

(Continued from page 9)

Peony. It is prolific and costs little to grow, while in the way of propagation, it is more readily carried out than with the Peony. Apart from this, the aesthetic taste of the flower buyers and the cheapness of the blooms make it a more satisfactory subject for the florist.

Needless to state, the Pyrethrum comes in the class of "florists flowers" named varieties standing far and away ahead of seedlings. Lemoine and Kelway, to mention only two, have devoted years to the breeding and raising of Pyrethrums. Several German and other growers, too, have raised some excellent varieties.

A Few Good Doubles

One of the most notable double forms was introduced some years ago by an English grower under the name of Queen Mary. This, owing to its pale pink color, great size and vigor, quickly became a market flower of importance. Other doubles of importance are Carl Voght, Aphrodite, and Mont Blanc, white; Lord Roseberry, scarlet; Sherlock, crimson; Triomphe de France, crimson, and Wilson Barrett, rose.

But while the doubles are better for shipping, the singles are greatly favored because of their brilliant colors and charming form which greatly resembles the single Chrysanthemum or Marguerite. Reine Marguerite is a popular term for them.

Some Showy Singles

Langfort, scarlet; James Kelway, crimson; Peace, pink; Mrs. Bateman Brown, crimson; Princess of Wales, blush; Agnes Kelway, rose; and Queen of Whites are a few varieties of merit. As a general rule, the market growers around London are always on the watch for a good new Pyrethrum and are somewhat reserved in telling one what varieties they grow. The culture of Pyrethrums is by no means difficult. The plants dislike hot, dry soils, but good loams and even clay land will do them well. On light soils watering is necessary, especially after planting, as this work cannot be done with success in the Fall.

Propagation and Culture

Strong roots may be split up into many pieces—a specially good sort can even be propagated from single eyes in a propagating house. Propagation is best done around April to June.

If buying in stock, it is best to get roots early and divide and plant right away. If one's own stock is to be increased, lift, split and replant immediately after flowering each division to have three or four eyes. Water if at all dry and cultivate frequently. Slugs are particularly partial to the young growths of Pyrethrums and should be guarded against. The Pyrethrum is perfectly hardy and will stand as much freezing as the Delphinium or Phlox, but it dislikes being flooded in Winter.

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LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson.

I have been away from Rosecroft on a trip up to San Francisco, and I am glad I went, now I am back again. For years I have listened to suggestions that I should see the Begonias here, there and everywhere, and come off my perch, so it was time I had a looksee. I saw good tuberous, the florists' windows had trays of the blooms, which I was informed were used for the centers of corsage bouquets, but they were all of one pattern and very similar in color, the doubles being flat for the most part, there were none of the newer types and colorings. I did not see even a fair specimen of Fibrous Begonia in the North. This does not mean that I combed the country looking for Begonias, but it does mean that I saw a number that were totally unworthy of their species. Another thing that was very apparent was the lack of support to the tuberous Begonias in staging. Large showings were placed on plain benches in symmetric rows, one above the other, and the abnormal stiffness of these plants was hopelessly accentuated. In another case the planting was in a flat bed and crowded, good, bad and indifferent, shouldering one another. If two-thirds of the plants could have been removed, giving the remainder free space with a green ground cover, the effect would have been quite different. The possibilities of the Begonia family have not dawned upon the consciousness of the Northern part of the State, it either does not know, or does not care, for it can grow them; the nucleus of the Rosecroft collection came down by boat from San Francisco in 1902, and I grew up there to a fair degree of perfection, over seventy named varieties of the Rexes.

I saw two lath houses down the peninsula from San Francisco. Yes, three, and the owners called them SLAT houses. The largest was very well built of select lumber and painted an immaculate white and it was hotter inside than out, in it one felt the need of a sunshade and smoked glasses, another that housed the tuberous Begonias had the lath spaced four inches apart and crossed, and a Chinese umbrella was put up over the table and chairs, and the third was in a hole under an oak tree and would have served well as a Frigidaire, whatever that may be, a persistent man will keep bothering me about one, deeming it necessary in the Begonia business, he does not realize how much of a frost it can be in itself.

In justice and ordinary fairness, after so much criticism, one should bow the head in meek submission to San Francisco's grass and shrubbery, her rhododendrons of which there are four hundred kinds in six thousand bushes in one valley in her Golden Gate Park, her fuchsias, her golf links and her public

playgrounds of all kinds, her Parks are a marvellous dream of Beauty realized in Public Service—but this has nothing to do with the Lath House.

Having touched on the Tuberous Begonias, it might be well to get done with them. These are noticeably getting ready to call it a day, especially with the Lloydii or Hanging Basket type, and I do wish I could get into the habit of calling these Tuberosa Pendula. It is well to think of next season and grow for then. The strength of the plant should now be returning to the tuber, any attempt to unduly prolong the blooming season will surely result in a weak tuber and failure next year. Do not use any stimulant, water only enough to prevent wilting, and on no consideration repot or replant. Of course this does not apply to seedlings of this year, which should be kept growing, as sturdily as possible, plenty of light, sufficient water but no stimulant. It is none too soon to be marking tubers, if you want to keep a record of color, etc. Pot labels painted in red, pink, yellow, etc., are a great help, if there are no children around, who like colored sticks.

If you are figuring on buying tuberous Begonias next year, now is the time to get them when you can know what they are. No one knows what happens to tubers in storage, but it is astonishing how yellows turn pink, and doubles shrink to singles, etc. I write feelingly for I am dolefully out of pocket over a lot of rose and salmon that I bought in the East from one of our best houses for a customer up the Coast, and when they bloomed their bed was a regular Joseph's Coat. I refunded, rather than be assaulted by an irate Scotch gardener.

I notice that the winter growing Asparagus Crispa from Africa is throwing out shoots; this is the very fine pendent one with sweet smelling blooms, a delicate, beautiful thing that should be more grown. It is excellent for a hanging basket, but requires several plants together, if small, to furnish well. All the winter blooming Begonias are making splendid growth, I have never seen Verschaelti more vigorous. This Begonia is deservedly becoming more and more popular, it will require protection from the rains to preserve the large foliage fully as beautiful as its huge heads of pink flowers. If needing repotting it should be done at once. Also any work with any of the early bloomers, look over Feastii, Bunchii, Mrs. Townsend, Manicata plain and Aurea, and be sure to have some baskets of these.

Take care of your Rexes, the younger plants now in vigorous growth can be very serviceable during the winter if given care, they will want to go into the glasshouse or,

in its absence, a window in the dwelling house, provided gas is not used.

The cry is for ferns, one seeker said San Diego has been gutted of ferns. Well there were not so many up North, if you except the Boston and all its sisters, its cousins and its aunts. And that reminds me I saw Smithii, or is it Schmidii, being grown on a shelf suspended right up against the glass and the grower said that was the only way he could get it to do, and he added that every time he passed by he bent the fronds away from the center to give it air, as the rotting in there was the main trouble. I pass this advice along, as it is nothing to me, I don't play golf or bridge with the family. I am, however, having a fling at an entente with the Selaginellas, but will report later, early enthusiasms are nothing to bet on.

Here is another tip, that should be hot, for it has to do with coal. In two reliable places I was recommended to use coal screenings instead of sand in my compost, I was assured it would curl the fronds of ferns like the most expensive Permanent, the theory is that sand being so much heavier than leafmold or manure, quickly sifts through it, the screenings are lighter, if anything, and serve the same sweetening purpose as charcoal. I have a bag of screenings, but dare not mix it up while my wife does the potting, and I would not discourage her for the world.

FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

H. Kirby. (Continued from page 4)

121—Best show dahlia.

122—Best dahlia exhibited by a novice. First, Alfred Nippell.

123—Best basket of pompom dahlias.

Special awards, Natural History Museum, wild flower exhibit. Park Board, general display.

Three special awards—A. D. Robinson, Rosecraft Begonia Gardens, Display Lath House subjects.

Kate O. Sessions—Hawaiian display of hibiscus.

Water lilies—Harry Johnson.

Native plants—Howard Johnson.

Special mention of seedling dahlias—Mr. Ben Elliott.

SHOW NOTES

Many expressions of approval made by visitors to the Fall Flower Show were either overheard or were made directly to those in charge. Among others recalled was one to the effect that it was the best display and the flowers shown were the most perfect ever seen at a Flower Show.

A frequent remark about Miss Sessions' arrangement of hibiscus was, "How do you suppose they develop hibiscus blossoms with such long stems?"

The judges also came in for their share of comment. Someone was overheard saying, wasn't it a treat to hear the Scotch burr as the judges talked. One of the judges was heard to say, "Is all this amateur stuff? I never saw better."

LINARIA VULGARIS

Linaria vulgaris of Gray, or *Linaria linaria* of other botanists, known by the common names of Yellow Toadflax, Butter and Eggs, Eggs and Bacon, Flaxweed and Brideweed, belongs to the Figwort family and to the natural order Linaceae. The flowers are about one inch long of light canary-yellow and orange, borne in terminal leafy-bracted spikes. The stems are from two to three feet high. A diminutive Snapdragon in appearance, the upper lip erect, lower lip spreading, its base an orange-colored palate closing the throat. Its beautiful spikes of butter-colored, snapdragon-like flowers may be seen along the roads and in the fields where it grows wild, an emigrant from Europe.

It is of easy culture by seeds or root division, apparently being content anywhere; a perennial blooming from June to October, which we consider worth giving a place in our garden. Perhaps part of its charm lies in the pale bluish-green, grass-like leaves intermingling with the flowers.

Bumblebees, guided by the orange palate where the curious flower opens, by his weight depresses the lower lip until an entrance through the gaping mouth is offered him; in he goes, his long tongue readily reaching the nectar in the deep spur, while his back brushes pollen from the stamens above him. After securing the nectar he backs out, the gaping mouth springing shut after him. The lightweight hive Bees sometimes squeeze slowly, painfully between the tight lips in search of nectar. Ants at times force an entrance, but they cannot reach the nectar, owing to the hairy stockade bordering the groove where it runs. Grazing cattle let the plant alone to ripen its seeds in peace, for it secretes a disagreeable juice in its cells. It is said that farmers' wives at one time mixed the juice with milk to poison flies.—Lambert Coulter (Iowa).

THE PYRETHRUM

(Continued from page 11)

Where water lies, it is best to have the roots in raised beds; ashes around the crowns will serve to protect from insect pests during the Winter. Fairly rich soil is recommended, but as with all perennials, it is wise policy to keep off fresh manure mulches, especially in the Fall.

Raising Seedlings

As it is not easy to find a great amount of stock offered, seed offers a simple method of making a start. The best strain possible should be obtained and raise some hundreds, so that a ruthless selection can be made when in flower if wanted for cut bloom for market purposes. The grower with a retail trade can readily dispose of a number of roots in the early Spring, but clients should be given to understand that Pyrethrums have to become established before they give a full crop. Pyrethrums are worth money as anyone may find when they seek to purchase named sorts in quantities.—(W. in Florists Exchange.)

THE STATELY IRIS

(Continued from page 5)

roses to despair, is worth noting by those who love the flower, but have scant time for garden tending. Also irises may be taken up and replanted at almost any time of the year. To have the best results, however, here are a few cultural points:

How to Plant Irises

The best time for planting is late summer or early autumn; here in California, preferably from August up to December. "The ground should be pulverized deeply," says Morton Sandford, the iris grower of the Carbon Canyon Road near Chino, "then fill with water the hole, or trench, made for setting the plants; after this settles, 'mud in' the roots, pressing the wet earth around the small, fibrous roots which should extend downward, with the large root (rhizome) about an inch below the surface of the ground. The rhizome should then be covered with dry, loose soil. If this work is properly done, the newly-planted irises should not be disturbed nor watered for ten days or two weeks. After this, water and cultivate carefully about every two weeks until growth starts, being governed by the weather and soil conditions as to the amount of water. Irises like a well-drained location and dislike 'wet feet' as roses do. Be careful, in working about the roots of newly planted irises that you do not disturb them. Never use barnyard manure near iris roots; a little bone meal worked in is preferable. If the soil is sour, mix in a little lime."

Where to Plant Irises

Irises, like many other bulbous plants and bulbs, suffer from our habit of planting always in rows or in solid phalanx, and treating them as an assemblage of color. The for of the flower is very beautiful, its poise and erectness rising above the sword-like leaves are full of character, and these are lost when it is thickly planted in a square bed or grown in tight rows. It is happiest when set in groups with shrubs for a background, or near the water garden where the reed-like character of the leaves harmonizes with papyrus and other pool margin plants, and the flowers are reflected in the water. The group planting has this advantage, that when the flower is not in bloom, no loss is felt; the foliage merges with the background, and when the stately flowers appear, their beauty of form shows to perfection.

Selecting Varieties

Those to whom "iris" means either the rather small purple or the common white sort know but little of the beauty and richness of color of the flower. Wise gardeners frequent flower shows, and go in person to the fields and experimental grounds of growers, where a liberal education may be obtained as to differences in color, shading and habit which the most carefully written catalogue

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cannot give adequately. And then flower preferences are so much a matter of individual taste. It is a good idea when starting one's iris collection, even if funds are limited, to include at least one iris of unusual beauty. Mrs. Elizabeth Briggs, the gladiolus expert, said that when buying her first small order of gladiolus bulbs, she included one bulb of Mrs. Frank Pendleton, and that one bulb was worth to her more than all the rest.

At the Banning flower show—a small show beside many of the others—was exhibited as magnificent a stalk of *Iris Ambassadeur* as is listed in the catalogues as "36 inches," but the stalk there shown must have reached up five or five and a half feet in the garden, beautifully branched and with gorgeous flowers, its smoky lavender standards tinged with bronze, and its falls of reddish violet. Being able to exhibit a flower of this sort gives more of a prideful thrill than the possession of many less notable ones. Another rarely beautiful iris is "San Gabriel," of California origin. The Southern California Iris Gardens had magnificent fields of this variety abloom this spring. "San Gabriel" grows to a splendid height, its stem is much branched and it blooms in regal abundance. The petals are a delicate pale lavender, with mauve. It is a stately and magnificent iris, but is a Southern Californian and doesn't endure extreme cold; it's an early variety.

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Among the less expensive but charming varieties is "Dr. Bernice," with coppery bronze standards and with falls of a velvety crimson-brown. This has fine foliage, blooms late, and is very effective in group planting, making a charming color in the landscape. There is "Vilmorin's Caprice," which is a deep reddish purple with yellow beard; and the old "Florentina alba," with flowers of a porcelain-white tinged with lavender, a very early sort, which in old days and in Grandmother's garden was grown also for the roots, of which "orris root" was made. Among the violets and purples are "Monsignor," pale violet flowers with deep veining of royal purple, that color of popes.' Then there is the lovely "Isolene," which has a definitely silvery sheen on its soft lilac standards and reflexed falls of gold and mauve. "Queen Caterina," "Lent A. Williamson," "Rev. Wirtelle" are charming irises. "Mother of Pearl" is a stately variety of beautiful color whose name describes it with unusual accuracy.

Most of Farr's introductions bear Indian names—"Navajo," "Massasoit," and many of them, like "Navajo," have distinctively Indian coloring. A delicately lovely iris is "Parisiana," white, charmingly decorated with pale violet—a mid-season variety.

Notable among the newer irises is Morton Sandford's "Romance," whose standards are a deep wine-color and the falls deep garnet tinged with cream color underneath; this iris has a long blooming period. Stillman Berry's "Cacique," an apogon, is an almost claret-red; a slender iris this, rather like the Spanish iris in appearance.

The Spanish irises are really bulbs. To him who is not a specialist, the flower looks like an iris, but the leaves are grass-like. The real difference, however, is in the root, the Spanish iris being a bulb, not the centipede-like affair known as a rhizome, from which the bearded, or pogoniris, springs. Among the Spanish irises one finds lovely clear yellows and charming dashes of orange on violet petals, as definite as the blotch of crimson on the Redwing blackbird's wing, as in one of the loveliest of the Spanish irises, "Rembrandt."

These are but a few of the easily obtainable irises. Those interested should join the Iris Society, and become acquainted with the sibirica group, that is fond of water, with the hexagona group, the splendid and stately Japanese irises, the Mediterranean group, with reticulata, Dichtoma, and with the charming Iris unguicularis which is kind enough to bloom in winter; then there are albicans and Japonica for earliest spring. An iris enthusiast may have from 200 to 1,000 different varieties in his collection.

Like the gladiolus, the iris is sufficiently "fool proof" for a child to grow, and interesting and varied enough to attract the connoisseur.

COFFEE GROWING IN ALTA VERAPAZ

By Harry Johnson.

Coffee has been grown in the Americas for over two centuries having been introduced into Surinam in 1718 by the Dutch. How the highly prized berry was secretly obtained by a French governor from the thrifty Dutch who thought to monopolize it and how it spread over the West Indies and Brazil forms a romantic page in horticultural history.

The cultivation and care of coffee and the handling of the crop varies to a certain extent in every producing region. Coffee cultivation differs materially in Brazil from that of Guatemala even as in the Alta Verapaz differs in minor points from the San Marcos district.

To understand the culture in the Alta Verapaz one must keep in mind the rugged mountainous character of the region and the difficulties of shipping and travel. There are practically no level portions excepting the high mountain plateaus and the lowlands adjoining the El Peten. It is in just such mountainous country that coffee thrives best. Here one might expect, and finds, coffee of the finest quality. The production is limited, 50,000 to 60,000 sacks being a normal crop. However, the finer grades command a premium in the world's markets. Before the war Hamburg took the lion's share, distributing it largely in Russia. During the war American buyers had the field.

Climatic conditions vary greatly according to altitude but the zone to which the plantations are confined is cool and moist. The rainfall is very great, from 75 inches to over 165 inches, but owing to the limestone formation and the topography it quickly drains away. The coffee zone begins at 2,000 feet and extends to 4,300. It is not entirely confined to this as many plantations are to be found at lower elevations, but the quality is inferior. The greater the elevation the better the quality though the quantity per tree is reduced. At 4,300 feet it ceases to be a remunerative crop. At rare intervals these high plantations are injured by frost.

It is a strange sight to northern eyes to see many of these fincas (plantations) perched high up on the mountain slopes on parts so steep it is almost impossible to climb them. Think of ranching on the Sierra Madres! Picture the chaparral as cafetals (blocks of coffee trees) and you may gain some conception of conditions here. Yet coffee reaches its best development in just such places as is evidenced by the dark healthy green of the shiny leaves, the glorious wealth of fragrant white flowers and the clusters of red berries weighting down the branches.

Let us follow the berry from the day it is planted till its crop leaves the hands of the *finquero*. The first care is a warm sunny spot for the nursery. A steep southwest exposure is best suited to utilize the sunheat. The nursery is usually placed as near as possible to the proposed cafetal to obviate long

carrying. A low frame work is erected similar to a lath house. The top and sides are covered loosely with braken fronds to protect the young seedlings from the direct rays of the sun and to preserve a more equable, moist atmosphere. The raised beds, 4 feet wide, follow the slope.

The cleaned, plump beans are sown thickly in the seed bed and covered lightly with soil. In from ten days to a month, depending upon the temperature, the seedlings appear, carrying the seed coats on the cotyledons like a garden bean. In a short time the seed leaves unfold and then in good culture they are transplanted to the beds. The tiny seedlings are spaced 8-9 inches each way, a hole being made with a dibble by one Indian, another following him planting. The beds are kept free of weeds for about one year, when the young trees are ready to set out in their permanent locations. They have reached, say 1-1½ feet in height, and are single whips, as a rule.

At the time the seed was planted a crew of Indians were busy felling the jungle trees, clearing the land of underbrush and debris and preparing it for planting. Holes were dug then, or later, 8-10 feet apart, and usually alternately. In the rich, black humus small holes a foot square and 18 inches deep are ample. They are all made with a hoe and a pointed stick as no Indian will accommodate himself with a spade or a pick. An upright stick was placed in each hole to mark its location in the weeds which later flourish. The young plants are carefully lifted with a ball of earth adhering and are carried in cacistes (frames) on the backs of Indians to the cafetals. There they are set out at their former depth, the soil being firmly treaded down by the bare footed Indian who then cuts a notch on a stick he carries as a tally.

During the first two years the ground is kept well cleared of weeds with hoe and machete. Very little else is required except to pinch out the tips when they reach 3 feet. No shade trees are needed in the Verapaz fincas.

In the third year they flower and a little fruit is set. The young trees grow rapidly and by this time has reached 4-5 feet in height with from 2-4 leaders. In the higher elevations the trees grow much slower and do not come into bearing in a paying way till the fourth year. They are also protected for the first year by a small frame covered with broken fronds, more to counteract the sudden temperature changes than as a sunshade.

During February and March and into April, the trees are loaded with the fragrant, white, flowers, every branchlet like a wreath. What a glorious sight the plantios are now! The air is heavy with the fragrance. There are two or three periods of flowering, nature seemingly not content to risk all on one throw.

The inflorescence is cymose, the flowers being packed closely in the axils of the opposite leaves; the swelling ovaries are thickly clustered. In November the first cherries, as they are called, begin to redden and soon the trees are in Christmas trim.

The fingero has been busy recruiting pickers from the Indian towns and from November to the middle of January everyone is rushed harvesting the crop. In the higher fincas the picking goes on almost the year around, the fruit ripening slowly.

An average day's picking of a Mozo (Indian) is from 25 to 100 pounds, depending on the amount of ripe fruit and the height of the trees. During the season the trees are gone over from four to six times. Each night the day's picking is brought to the beneficio (factory) where it is weighed and dumped into the receiving bin. The picker's time card is punched for the amount of his tarea (task) and he goes off to his palm-thatched hut and smoky fire.

The beneficio is operated by a water turbine, one of the many streams being diverted for this purpose. On the small fincas where the cherries are simply pulped, the work is done by man power. From the receiving bin the cherries are washed by a small jet of water down a short canal to the pulping machine. This is a revolving copper drum perforated like a nutmeg grater. The cherries pass between the drum and an iron apron with two grooves 2 inches wide and not quite as deep as the cherry is thick. The grooves run from the middle where the fruit is fed in, to the outer, lower, ends. The pulp is rasped off and washed away with the water while the berries, as they are now called, emerge from holes at the ends of the grooves into canals down which they are carried to the fermenting vats. Here they remain from two to four days, or until the sweet mucilaginous outer coating is removed. Water is then turned into the vats, a spigot is opened at the bottom and they are run out into the washing canal. Here, while a stream of water passes over them they are continually stirred with a wooden hoe. The unfilled and poorly pulped berries being lighter, rise to the surface and float to the end where they are shoveled to one side. There is quite a knack to this washing. Three or four dams are placed across the stream, the berries passing successively onward so that by the time they reach the end all the light ones are removed.

They are then spread out on the patios and allowed to dry till the parchment on the outer hull is thoroughly dried. A small boy is put to work pushing a large wooden rake to stir them, which facilitates drying. If it commences to rain, as it usually does, they are hastily shoveled into heaps and put under cover.

(Continued in October Issue)



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